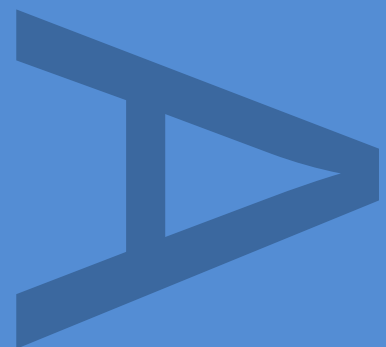


**LAND AT MILLS LANE,
LONGSTANTON,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE: AN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL
TRENCH EVALUATION**



JULY 2016

**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12546**

LAND AT MILLS LANE, LONGSTANTON,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH
EVALUATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K4517
Report Number	R12546

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Mary-Anne Slater		July 2016
Graphics Prepared by:	Ray Murphy		July 2016
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	July 2016
Project Manager Sign-off:	Taleyna Fletcher	<i>Taleyna Fletcher</i>	July 2016

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved
Rev. 1	August 2016	<i>Taleyna Fletcher</i>	August 2016

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
The Granary
Rectory Farm
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridgeshire
CB22 3EN

Land at Mills Lane, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: South Cambridgeshire District Council

Planning Reference: TBC

Central National Grid Reference: TL 4030 6607

Site Code/Event Number: ECB4740

Report No. R12546

Written and researched by: Mary-Anne Slater
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project Manager: Taleyna Fletcher

Commissioning Client: Resolute Estates Ltd

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Central Office
The Granary
Rectory Farm
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridgeshire
CB22 3EN

Tel: 01223 845522

E-mail: tfletcher@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

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July 2016

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Mills Lane, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4030 6607) between the 8th and the 10th June 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by Resolute Estates Ltd in support of a planning application for the construction of 10 residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The evaluation identified a number of ditches, many of which probably had their origins in the medieval period and continued in use through the post-medieval period. St. Michaels Lane to the south-east (and possibly Mills Lane to the north-west) is likely to have been present in the medieval period and the ditches aligned perpendicular and parallel to these roads are thought to represent medieval plot divisions. A concentration of pits dating from the 12th-15th century A.D in Trenches 1, 3 and 4 are indicative of settlement activity off site but nearby. The remains of a series of house platforms, terraced ditches and leats relating to the shrunken medieval village lie to the south-east of All Saint's Church, in the fields north of Mills Lane. The medieval activity seen in this evaluation may be related to this medieval settlement.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Mills Lane, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TL 4030 6607) from the 8th to the 10th September 2016 (Figure 1).

1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Resolute Estates Ltd pre-application prior to the construction of 10 new residential dwellings, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping.

1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mary-Anne Slater of PCA (Slater 2016) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Andy Thomas (Thomas 2016) of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.

1.5 A total of one 20m trench and six 25m trial trenches were excavated and recorded.

1.6 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The area is underlain by Kimmeridge Clay Formation - Mudstone (BGS; Website 1). Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 151 to 156 million years ago in the Jurassic Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas.

2.1.2 The superficial deposits consist of River Terrace Deposits - Sand and Gravel (BGS; Website 1). These deposits were formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the environment was dominated by rivers.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site lies at approximately 13.1m above Ordnance Datum.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1.1 The following archaeological background is taken from the Archaeological Brief (Thomas 2016) and a search of the Cambridgeshire HER.
- 3.1.2 The site is located in the southern part of Longstanton village, 150m north of the medieval church of St Michael (HER 05449). Longstanton is comprised of the two medieval parishes of Long Stanton All Saints and Long Stanton St Michael, each with their own manor. Earthworks relating to the shrunken medieval village of Longstanton are recorded in the fields to the north-west of the site (HER 09261).
- 3.1.3 Faint traces of ploughed out former ridge and furrow earthworks were visible within the development area. The ridge and furrow was aligned with the north west- south east property boundary.
- 3.1.4 Excavation undertaken in connection with the Northstowe development has identified extensive evidence for Iron Age, Roman and Saxon settlement of the area. As part of the Longstanton environs project, the area of Oakington airfield was investigated, which lies to the east of the site (MCB16348). Evidence for extensive Roman settlement was found, with pottery mainly dating to the 2nd-4th centuries AD, although isolated features containing Iron Age pottery and a small quantity of Late Bronze Age pottery were also found.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of seven trial trenches, distributed across the site (Figure 2). The trenches were positioned in order to obtain a representative sample of the site.

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 21-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.

4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.

4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.1.5 Features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.

4.1.6 Discrete features such as pits and postholes were at least 50% excavated.

4.2 Recording Methodology

4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a

Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

- 4.2.2 Manual section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:20).
- 4.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process.
- 4.2.5 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (ClfA 2014; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. Features and deposits are subdivided into feature type, before being described in numeric cut order within the trench. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the subsoil, unless otherwise stated.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained six ditches, aligned north-west to south-east or north-east to south-west, five pits and a brick wall and foundation cut.

5.2.2 The earliest activity appears to be ditches represented by [126] and [144]. A group of five pits at the eastern end of the trench may represent some evidence for expansion of the known settlement to the north of the current development in the medieval period. It should be noted that the pottery recovered from the fills from these pits was extremely abraded and is likely to have been residual.

5.2.3 Ditch cuts [136] and [138] represent recutting of the same northwest-southeast aligned plot boundary which extends southwards into Trench 2 as [149], [151] and [153]. Wall [132] on the same line as the earlier ditches is indicative of a relatively modern date for this boundary (as is the dead cat and traces of plastic found in ditch [151], see Emra, Section 6.2). Ditch [128] shares the same alignment and is likely to be contemporary with [134] and [136].

5.2.4 Ditch [126] (Figure 3, Section 11) was located just north of [128]. It was 0.7m wide and 0.12m deep with shallow sides and a flattish base. It had a single fill (125) of light greyish-brown sandy silt.

5.2.5 Ditch [128] (Figure 3, Section 12) was located at the west end of the trench. It was 0.4m wide and 0.28m deep with moderate – vertical sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (127) of dark greyish-brown silty clay.

5.2.6 Ditch [136] (Plate 7, Figure 3, Section 14) was located in the western half of

the trench. It was 0.18+m wide and 0.13m deep with moderate sides and a flat base. It had a single fill (135) of mid orange-brown silty clay. Ditch [136] was truncated by Ditch [138].

5.2.7 Ditch [138] (Plate 7, Figure 3, Section 14) was located in the western half of the trench. It was 0.5m wide and 0.36m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It had a single fill (137) of mid orange-brown silty clay, which contained a single fragment of cattle sized animal bone. Ditch [138] truncated Ditch [136].

5.2.8 Ditch [140] (Figure 3, Section 15) was located in the western half of the trench. It was 0.43m wide and 0.2m deep with moderate sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (139) of mid greyish-brown silty clay, which contained a single residual sherd of 10th-12th century St Neots type ware and two fragments of cattle sized animal bone. Ditch [140] truncated Wall 132.

5.2.9 Ditch [144] (Plate 6, Figure 3, Section 17) was located in the eastern half of the trench. It was 0.73m wide and 0.34m deep with moderate sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (143) of mid-greyish brown silty clay which contained 5 sherds of 10th-14th century pottery, including St Neots, Thetford, Hedingham and sandy wares. The fill also contained a single fragment of unidentified animal bone.

5.2.10 Wall 132 (Plate 7, Figure 3) was located in the western half of the trench. It was aligned north-west to south-east and was in construction cut [134] (not excavated). The construction cut had a single fill (133) of mid-brown silty clay.

5.2.11 Pit [122] (Figure 3, Section 9) was located in the eastern half of the trench. It was sub-oval in plan, measuring 0.98m long, 0.47m wide and 0.42m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (121) of mid-greyish brown silty clay.

5.2.12 Pit [124] (Figure 3, Section 10) was located in the eastern half of the trench. It was sub-oval in plan, measuring 1.32m long, 0.7m wide and 0.5m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (123) of mottled

greyish brown and orange silty clay and gravels.

5.2.13 Pit [131] (Figure 3, Section 13) was located in the western half of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.5m wide and 0.47m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It had a single fill (130) of dark greyish brown silty clay, which contained a single sherd of 10-12th century St Neots type ware and two fragments of cattle sized animal bone.

5.2.14 Pit [142] (Plate 6, Figure 3, Section 18) was located in the eastern half of the trench. It was sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 1.1+m long, 1+m wide and 0.53+m deep with steep sides. It had a single fill (141) of mid-greyish brown silty clay which contained 2 sherds of 9th-12th century Thetford type ware and a single sherd of 12-13th century green glazed Grimston Ware.

5.2.15 Pit [146] (Figure 3, Section 16) was located at the east of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.94m wide and 0.18m deep with moderate sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (145) of dark blackish brown silty clay.

TRENCH 1	Figures 2-3		Plate 2, 6-7	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 12.71-12.82		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		W End	E End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.2	0.25	
Subsoil	(101)	0.2-0.58	0.25-0.69	
Natural	(102)	0.58+	0.69+	
Summary				
Trench 1 was located close to the western corner of the site.				
The trench contained six ditches, five pits and a brick wall.				

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 The trench contained three ditches, aligned north-west to south-east, which represent a continuation of plot boundary [134] [136] and [138] in Trench 1 and one pit.

5.3.2 Ditch [149] (Plate 8, Figure 3, Section 19) was 0.6+m wide and 0.1m deep

with moderately steep rounded sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of mid- brownish grey silty clay (148).

- 5.3.3 Ditch [151] (Plate 8, Figure 3, Section 19) was 0.7m wide and 0.22m deep with moderately steep rounded sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of dark brownish grey silty clay (150), which contained a large assemblage of 55 fragments of animal bone. This assemblage included the remains of cattle and most of an unarticulated cat skeleton. This skeleton was in very good condition and is likely to be of a modern date. The fill also contained abundant charcoal and charred grains of wheat and barley.
- 5.3.4 Ditch [153] (Figure 3, Section 20) was 0.38m wide and 0.14m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-greyish brown silty clay (152).
- 5.3.5 Pit [155] (Figure 3, Section 21) was sub-oval in plan, measuring 3+m long, 1+m wide and 0.48m deep with shallow sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid- greyish brown silty clay (154), which contained a single sherd of 12th-15th century south-east Fenland Calcareous Buff ware as well as two fragments of sheep sized animal bone.

TRENCH 2	Figures 2-3		Plates 3, 8	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 12.89-13.02		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.19	0.24m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.19-0.53	0.24-0.7	
Natural	(102)	0.53+	0.7+	
Summary				
Trench 2 was located in the southern corner of the site. It contained three ditches and one pit.				

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 The trench contained one northeast-southwest ditch and two pits.

5.4.2 Ditch [120] (Figure 3, Section 8) was 0.9m wide and 0.22m deep, with

moderate sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of light greyish-brown clay (119).

5.4.3 Pit [104] (Plate 9, Figure 3, Section 7) was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.85m wide and 0.28+m deep with moderate sides. It contained a single fill of dark brownish grey clay (103) which contained 58 fragments of goat, frog and unidentified sheep-sized animal bone.

5.4.4 The second pit in the southern end of Trench 3 was unexcavated due to rising water levels in that end of the trench.

TRENCH 3	Figures 2-3		Plate 9	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 12.08-12.12		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.22	0.23m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.22-0.42	0.23-0.43	
Natural	(10)	0.42+	0.43+	
Summary				
Trench 3 was located near the north-west boundary of the site.				
The trench contained a ditch and two pits.				

5.5 Trench 4

5.5.1 The trench contained four ditches, one ditch and two pits.

5.5.2 Ditch [106] (Figure 4, Section 1) measured 0.64m wide and 0.14m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of mid-brown sandy silty clay (105).

5.5.3 Ditch [108] (Figure 4, Section 2) measured 0.24m wide and 0.1m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of dark grey silty clay (107).

5.5.4 Ditch [114] (Figure 4, Section 4) measured 0.66m wide and 0.1m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-grey silty clay (113) which contained a single fragment of animal bone from a

sheep-sized animal.

- 5.5.5 Ditch [116] (Figure 4, Section 5) measured 1m wide and 0.14m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-grey silty clay (115).
- 5.5.6 Ditch [118] (Figure 4, Section 6) measured 0.96m wide and 0.34m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-grey silty clay (115).
- 5.5.7 Pit [110] (Plate 10, Figure 4, Section 3) was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.92m wide and 0.36+m deep, with moderately sloping sides. The base was not reached due to rising water levels. It had a single fill of mid-dark grey mottled reddish brown sandy silty clay (109), which contained a single sherd of 12th-14th century Hedingham Fineware. Pit [110] truncated Pit [112].
- 5.5.8 Pit [112] (Plate 10, Figure 4, Section 3) was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.92m wide and 0.36+m deep, with steep sides. The base was not reached due to rising water levels. It had a single fill of light grey mottled yellow brown silty clay (111). Pit [112] was truncated by Pit [110].

TRENCH 4	Figures 2 & 4	Plates 4, 10	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 12.33-12.38	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.35	0.35
Subsoil	(101)	0.35-0.7	0.35-0.83
Natural	(102)	0.7+	0.83+
Summary			
Trench 4 was located centrally in the southern part of the site.			
There were seven archaeological features spread throughout in the trench. These comprised five ditches and two pits.			

5.6 Trench 5

- 5.6.1 The trench contained three ditches, two aligned northeast-southwest and one northwest-southeast.

5.6.2 Ditch [165] (Plate 11, Figure 4, Section 26) measured 0.84m wide and 0.25m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-brownish grey silty clay (164). Ditch [165] truncated Ditch [167].

5.6.3 Ditch [167] (Plate 11, Figure 4, Section 26) measured 0.52m wide and 0.13m deep, with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of light to mid-brown clay (166). Ditch [167] was truncated by Ditch [165].

5.6.4 Ditch [169] (Figure 4, Section 27) measured 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of mid-greyish brown clay (168).

TRENCH 5	Figures 2 & 4	Plate 11	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 12.15-12.23	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.18	0.28
Subsoil	(101)	0.18-0.64	0.28-0.72
Natural	(102)	0.64+	0.72+
Summary			
Trench 5 was located centrally in the centre part of the site.			
There were three ditches in the centre of the trench.			

5.7 Trench 6

5.7.1 Trench 6 contained two northeast-southwest aligned ditches and two postholes.

5.7.2 Ditch [157] (Figure 4, Section 22) measured 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-yellowish brown clay (156).

5.7.3 Ditch [159] (Figure 4, Section 23) measured 1m wide and 0.27m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-yellowish brown clay (158).

5.7.4 Posthole [161] (Plate 12, Figure 4, Section 24) was sub-circular in plan,

measuring 0.54m wide and 0.1m deep, with moderate-steep sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-greyish brown silty clay (160).

5.7.5 Posthole [163] (Figure 4, Section 25) was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.53m wide and 0.15m deep, with moderate-steep sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-greyish brown silty clay (162).

TRENCH 6	Figures 2 & 4		Plates 5, 12	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 11.88-11.95		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.2	0.22	
Subsoil	(101)	0.2-0.61	0.22-0.66	
Natural	(102)	0.61+	0.66+	
Summary				
Trench 6 was located towards the north-east boundary of the site.				
There were four archaeological features in the trench: two ditches and two postholes.				

5.8 Trench 7

5.8.1 No archaeological features were present in Trench 7.

TRENCH 7	Figure 2		Plate N/A	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 20m	Level of Natural (m OD): 11.7-12.08		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		E End	W End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.34	0.25	
Subsoil	(101)	0.34-0.8	0.25-0.67	
Natural	(102)	0.8+	0.67+	
Summary				
Trench 7 was located towards the south-east boundary of the site.				
There were no archaeological features present.				

6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Post-Roman Pottery

By Berni Sudds

6.1.1 A total of 13 sherds of post-Roman pottery were recovered, weighing 312g (Table 1). The pottery includes material of Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date. The range of fabrics identified can be well paralleled in the locality and broader region, including the more recently defined South-West Cambridgeshire Sandy ware and South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware, provisionally identified in fills (143) and (154) (Spoerry 2016, 117-8; 194-6).

6.1.2 With the exception of the Glazed red earthenware bowl the assemblage is comprised of small sherds in mixed condition. The Late Saxon material demonstrates the greatest abrasion although it is likely most of the pottery has been re-deposited. No further analysis is recommended.

Context	Fabric	Form	No (wg)	Date range	Spot date
100	Gazed red earthenware (GRE)	Bowl with hammerhead rim	1 (277g)	1580 - 1900	1580 – 1900
109	Hedingham fineware (HEDI)	Jug body sherd, strip decoration	1 (3g)	1150 – 1350	1150 – 1350
130	St Neots-type ware (NEOT)	Body sherd	1 (1g)	900 – 1150	900 – 1150
139	St Neots-type ware (NEOT)	Body sherd	1 (3g)	900 – 1150	900 – 1150
141	Thetford-type ware (THET)	Body sherd and body/neck sherd	2 (6g)	875 – 1150	1175 - 1400
	Grimston ware (GRIM)	Inside edge of rim, green glaze.	1 (3g)	1175 – 1400	
143	St Neots-type ware (NEOT)	Base and body sherd	2 (8g)	900 – 1150	1150 – 1250+

	Thetford-type ware (THET)	Body? Sherd	1 (3g)	875 – 1150	
	Heddingham fineware (HEDI)	Body sherd, specks of clear glaze.	1 (4g)	1150 – 1350	
	Miscellaneous sandy ware (?South-West Cambridgeshire Sandy ware - SCAMSW)	Body sherd	1 (1g)	1050 – 1250	
154	South-east Fenland Medieval Calcareous Buff ware (SEFEN)	Body sherd	1 (3g)	1150 – 1450	1150 – 1450

Table 1: Post-Roman pottery

6.2 Animal Bone

By Stephanie Emra

Introduction

6.2.1 The assemblage results from an archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on the land off Mills Lane, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire. The site had a NISP (number of identified specimens) of 122 bone fragments with a total weight of 318. 71 (58.2%) fragments were identified down to an animal size category, of which 29 (23.8%) were identified down to a species level.

Assemblage Chronology

6.2.2 Only two contexts with bone in them have spot dates, being (130) [131] dated to 900-1150 A.D. and (143) [144] dating to 1150 – 1250+ A.D. Unfortunately, only 3 fragments date from these contexts. Apart from pottery from the topsoil, the spot dates provided by the pottery found across the entire site date from the Late Saxon to medieval period. Due to the lack of more precise dating for the context with bone, and the small size of the

assemblage the bones from across the site will be considered together. The exception to this are those from ditch (150) [151], as it is the opinion of the author that the majority of the bones from this context are of a far later date to the rest of the site assemblage

Methodology

- 6.2.3 The assemblage was recovered by hand collection. The assemblage was identified with reference to a modern reference collection as well as reference to Hillson (1999), Schmid (1972) and France (2008). All anatomical elements were identified to species where possible, any unidentifiable fragments were assigned to general size or taxonomic categories (e.g. Cattle sized, bird etc.). Where appropriate the following information was recorded for each fragment; element, anatomical zone, tooth eruption/wear (after Grant 1982, Payne 1987, Levine 1982, Greenfield & Arnold, 2008, Hillson 2008), butchery marks, metrical data (after von den Driesch 1976), gnawing, burning, surface weathering and pathology.
- 6.2.4 Caprines (sheep/goat) were differentiated based on the criteria of Boessneck (1969), Halstead et al. (2002), Payne (1987), Prummel and Frisch (1986) and Zeder and Lapham (2010). The sexing of pelvises followed Greenfield (2006).

Assemblage Composition

- 6.2.5 Context (150) [151]: The majority (77.5%) of bones found on this site that were identifiable down to a size category or species level were from the ditch (150) [151]. As Table 2 shows the majority (90.9%) of the ditch (150) [151] are made up of cat or cat-sized bones from one individual. It is also the opinion of the author (and the excavator) this cat skeleton is a relatively recent interment as judged by the comparative lack of weathering and staining compared to other fragments in the context and across the site. There are also a number of complete or near complete elements that are very delicate such as the fibula, vertebrae and ribs which would be highly unusual to be found in such a complete state after an extended period of

time. The remaining bones from the ditch however are comparatively more weathered and probably residual.

Species:	Species:	NISP:
Cattle	<i>Bos taurus</i>	2
Cattle sized		2
Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>	18
Cat sized		32
Unidentified		1
Total:		55

Table 2 A summary of the faunal remains recovered from the ditch (150) [151].

6.2.6 The remaining bones from context other than (150) [151] have a NISP of 67. Of that 19 (28.4%) are identifiable down to a size category which summarized in Table 3.

Species:	Species:	NISP:
Cattle	<i>Bos taurus</i>	1
Cattle-sized		4
Sheep/Goat		1
Goat	<i>Capra hircus</i>	1
Sheep-sized		5
Frog or Toad		1
Unidentified bird		2
Unidentified microfauna		4
Unidentified		48
Total:		67

Table 3 A summary of the faunal remains from contexts other than (150) [151].

Summary and Recommendations

6.2.7 Element distribution, fusion, butchery evidence and attrition information have been recorded but will not be presented here as the assemblage is too small and fragmented to make any of this information statistically significant.

6.2.8 Apart from the modern cat burial in the ditch (150) [151], few conclusions can be drawn from this assemblage as it is exceptionally small, no further analysis is recommended.

6.3 Environmental Assessment

By Kate Turner

Introduction

- 6.3.1 This report summarises the findings of the assessment of flot residues from 3 bulk samples submitted for review. These were taken from two pits and a ditch at a site on Mills Lane, Longstanton. The aim of this assessment is to ascertain the environmental potential of these samples.

Methodology

- 6.3.2 The flot residues were scanned under a low-power binocular microscope in order to identify and quantify any environmental material, in the form of seeds, chaff, charred grains, molluscs and charcoal. These were recorded using a non-linear scale to denote abundance where '1' indicates the occasional occurrence of an ecofact (1-10 items), '2' indicates that it is fairly frequent (11-30 items), '3' more frequent (31-100 items) and '4' abundant (>100 items). A note was also made of any other significant inclusions, for example roots and modern plant material. The results of this assessment are shown in Appendix 3.

Results and Discussion

- 6.3.3 Preservation of environmental material was mixed across the assemblage; charred remains were present in both samples <1> and <3>, in the form of highly fragmented wood charcoal and, in the case of sample <3>, charred grain. Sample <2> also contained a single grain of charred barley; as this is not contemporary with any other burnt remains it is likely to be the result of secondary deposition.
- 6.3.4 The highest concentration of charcoal and charred grain was found in sample <3> which is modern in date, containing the remains of a well preserved cat and fragments of plastic. Fragment size is generally small, and only one or two pieces are of a size to be identified to species. This sample also contained over 100 charred grains, the preliminary identification of which indicates the presence of both *Triticum* (Wheat) and *Hordeum* (Barley) species, which may be indicative of arable farming. Chaff remains were

however not present in this deposit.

6.3.5 Small amounts (<30 specimens) of uncharred seeds were found in samples <1> and <3>, including specimens of *Chenopodium album* (fat hen), *Rubus* spp. (brambles) and *Solanum nigrum* (black nightshade), all which are commonly associated with either disturbed or waste ground. Low concentrations of other taxa were also present, a full account of which is provided in Table 4.

Sample Number	1	3
Uncharred seeds		
<i>Carex</i> spp.	2	
<i>Chenopodium album</i>		15
<i>Eleocharis</i> spp.	5	4
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	2	
<i>Nuphar</i> spp. (seed case)		1
<i>Polygonum</i> spp.		1
<i>Rubus</i> spp.	9	1
<i>Rumex</i> spp.		2
<i>Sambucus</i> spp.	3	
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	14	1
Charred Grain		
<i>Triticum</i> spp.		37
<i>Hordeum</i> sp	1	22
No ID		89

Table 4 Preliminary identification of seeds

6.3.6 Molluscs were present throughout the assemblage, with good levels of preservation. Samples <2> and <3> contained the highest concentration, featuring both land and freshwater taxa. Species of land mollusc present include *Vitrea contracta* (milky crystal snail), *Vallonia excentrica* (eccentric grass snail), *Pupilla muscorum* (moss chrysalis snail) and *Oxychilus alliarius* (garlic snail); all with the exception of the garlic snail indicating a drier, more open environment. Small numbers of freshwater snails of the species *Bathyomphalus contortus* (twisted rams-horn) and *Gyraulus crista* (Nautilus rams-horn) were also found in samples <2> and <3>, indicating significant hydrological change may have occurred in features [110] and [151]. Sample <1> contained only a minimal amount (<30) of land molluscs (Table 5), the

majority of species present preferring a moist, sheltered environment. The burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* (agate snail) was also identified in all three samples, the largest amount being in sample 1; this species is usually interpreted as being a modern intrusion when found in archaeological samples. A full record of the snails identified is presented in Table 5.

Sample Number	1	2	3
Snail species			
<i>Aegopinella pura</i>	5		
<i>Bathymorphalus contortus</i>		1	2
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	2	2	174
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>			1
<i>Cochlicopa lubrica</i>	1	2	
<i>Columella aspera</i>		7	
<i>Gyraulus crista</i>		14	
<i>Oxychilus alliarius</i>	4	14	
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>			4
<i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>			2
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>		22	4
<i>Pyramidula rupestris</i>		7	
<i>Vallonia costata</i>	5	12	1
<i>Vallonia excentrica</i>	5	31	6
<i>Vertigo pygmaea</i>	1	7	1
<i>Vitrea contracta</i>	5	40	9
<i>Vitrea crystallina</i>		3	7
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i>		2	
<i>Zonitoides nitidus</i>			8
Juveniles (no species ID)		30	

Table 5 Preliminary identification of molluscs

6.3.7 Root material was present throughout the sample set, in varying concentrations. This, along with the presence of modern burrowing molluscs and modern plant remains (sample <3>) may be evidence of bioturbation or post depositional movement of material, though it is impossible to quantify the extent of this accurately. This may have an impact on the usability of the samples, and the possibility that some remains are not in situ should be considered when utilising the dataset.

7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Discussion

7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation revealed features within Trenches 1-6, representing three broad episodes of activity.

7.1.2 The majority of features were linear ditches which had their origins in the medieval period and continued in use through the early post-medieval period.

7.1.3 The earliest activity appears to be ditches on a northeast-southwest alignment likely relating to activity during the early medieval period.

7.1.4 A group of five pits at the eastern end of Trench 1 may represent some evidence for expansion of the known settlement to the north of the current development in the medieval period. Some indication that the pitting post dates the initial phase of ditches was evident in Trench 1 but the two activities need not have been mutually exclusive.

7.1.5 The pottery is likely to be residual in nature (Sudds, Section 6.1), possibly introduced during manuring of the fields. The main phase of activity dates broadly to the medieval period (12th – 15th century A.D.), although residual evidence for late Saxon activity was also noted.

7.1.6 The final phase in the development of the site is represented by a series of boundaries including a brick wall which are aligned northwest-southeast, perpendicular to the original ditches. Dating of this period of activity is again problematic due to truncation but some of the ditches are clearly modern in origin and probably represent sub division of the area into paddocks or small fields in the post-medieval to modern periods.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The evaluation identified an area of archaeological features in the north-west corner along Mills Lane, which are considered to relate to the medieval settlement to the north of Mills Lane.

7.2.2 Conclusive dating of the features present was not possible as the few finds

recovered were in poor condition and were likely to be residual in nature. In broad terms the evaluation has provided some limited evidence for the possible later Saxon origins for the settlement known to lie to the north of the development area.

- 7.2.3 St. Michaels Lane to the south-east (and possibly Mills Lane to the north-west) is likely to have been present in the medieval period and the ditches aligned perpendicular and parallel to these roads are thought to represent medieval and later plot divisions.
- 7.2.4 It may tentatively be suggested that the pits present show that the original settlement expanded before it shrank and contracted in the medieval period and the land reverted to agricultural use to the present day.
- 7.2.5 The remains of a series of house platforms, terraced ditches and leats relating to the medieval village lie in the fields north of Mills Lane. The medieval features seen in this evaluation almost certainly relate to activity on the periphery of the medieval settlement.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Resolute Estates Ltd for commissioning the work and Anthill Plant Hire for operating the excavator. PCA are also grateful to Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for his advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Taleyna Fletcher for managing the project. The author would also like to thank the project team: Clare Jackson and Zoe Richardson for their hard work, Berni Seddon, Stephanie Emra and Kate Turner for finds and environmental reporting and finally PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

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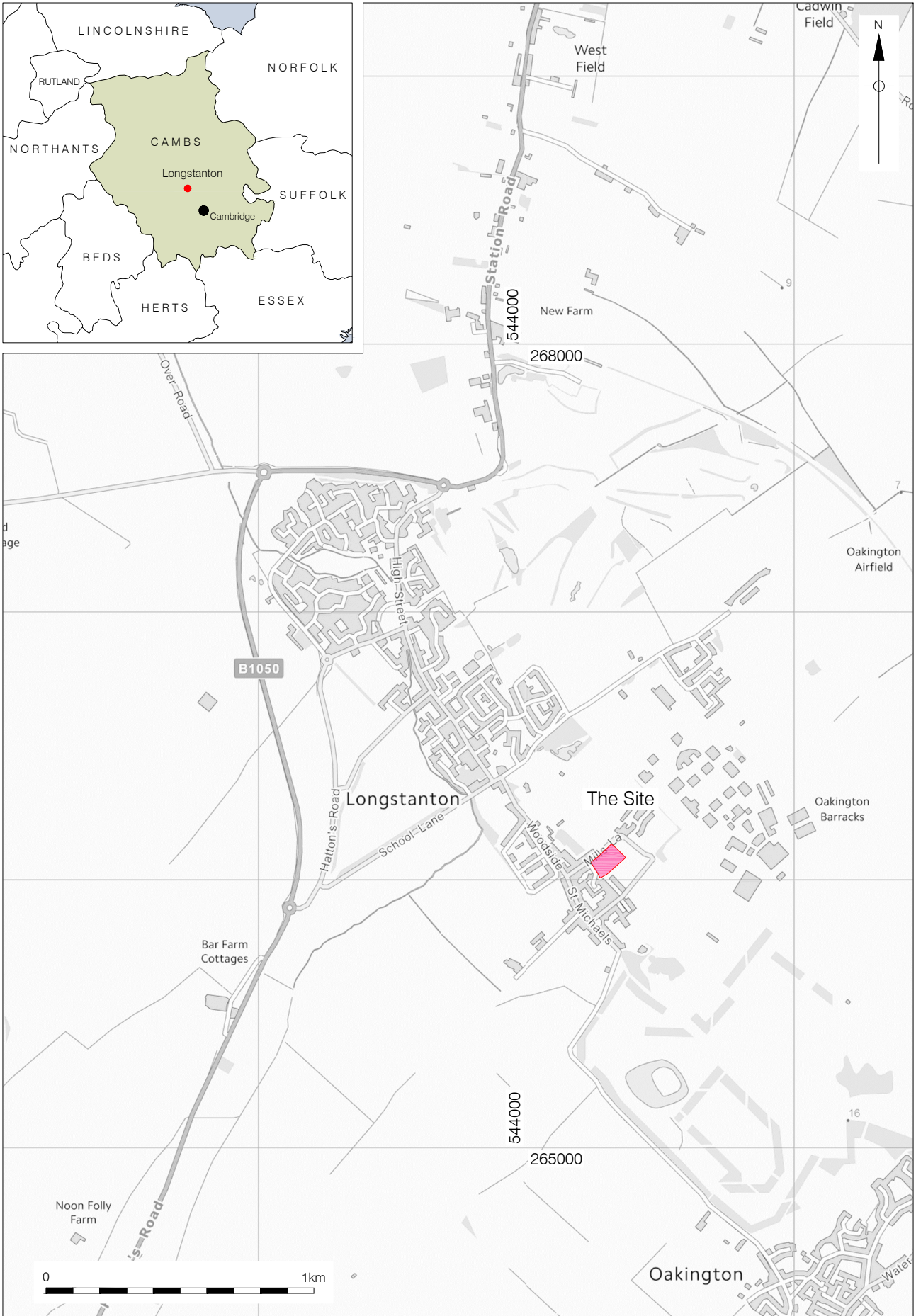
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<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>



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Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000 and 1:20,000 at A4

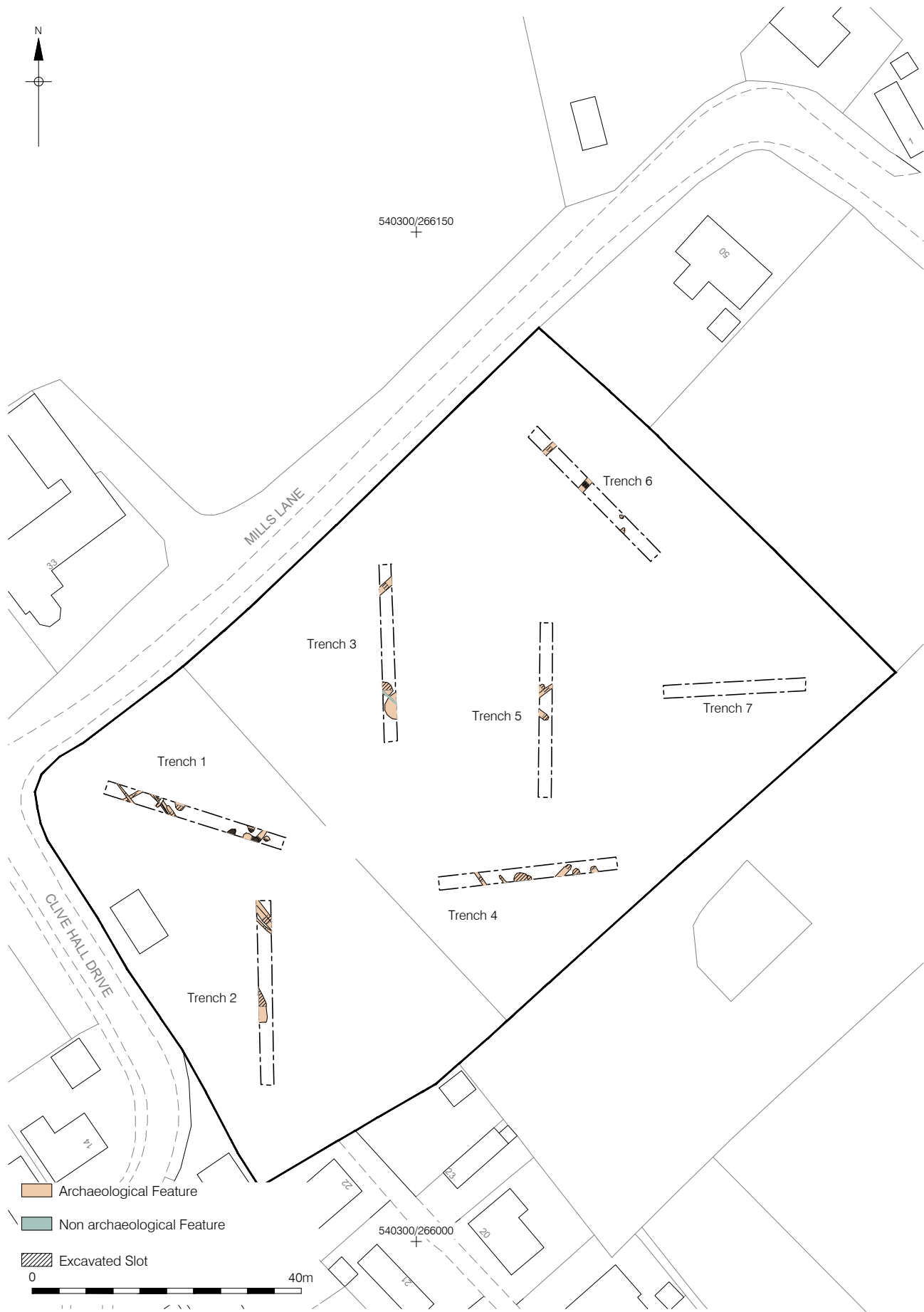
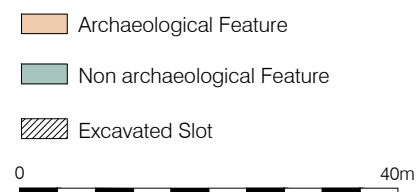
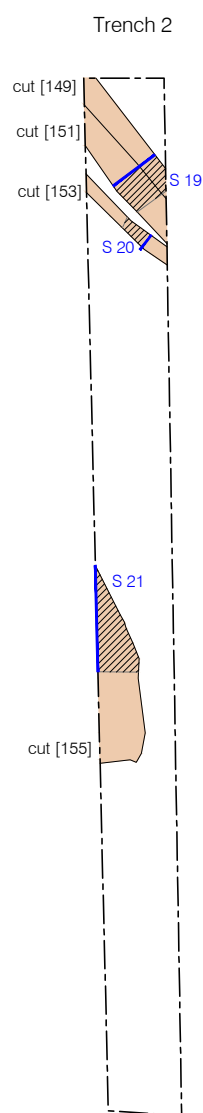
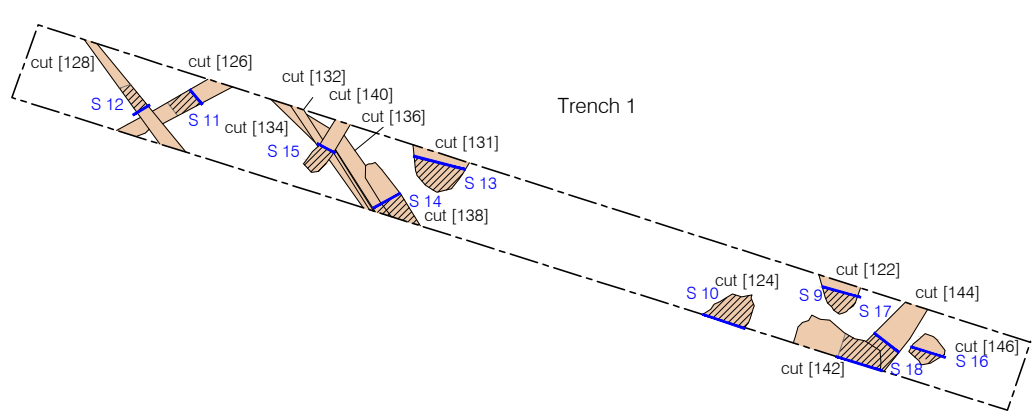
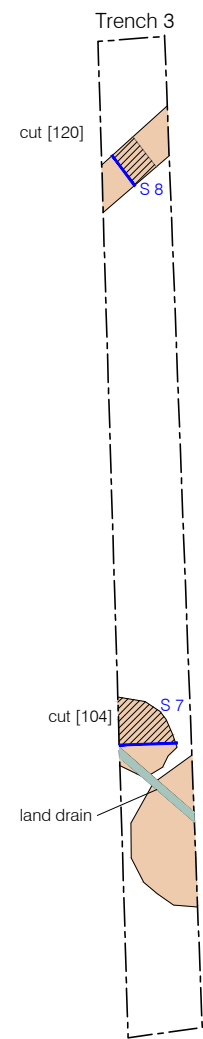
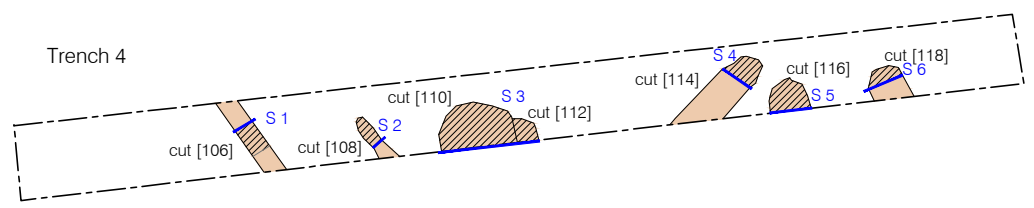
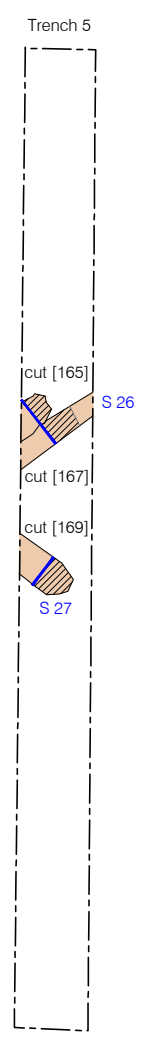
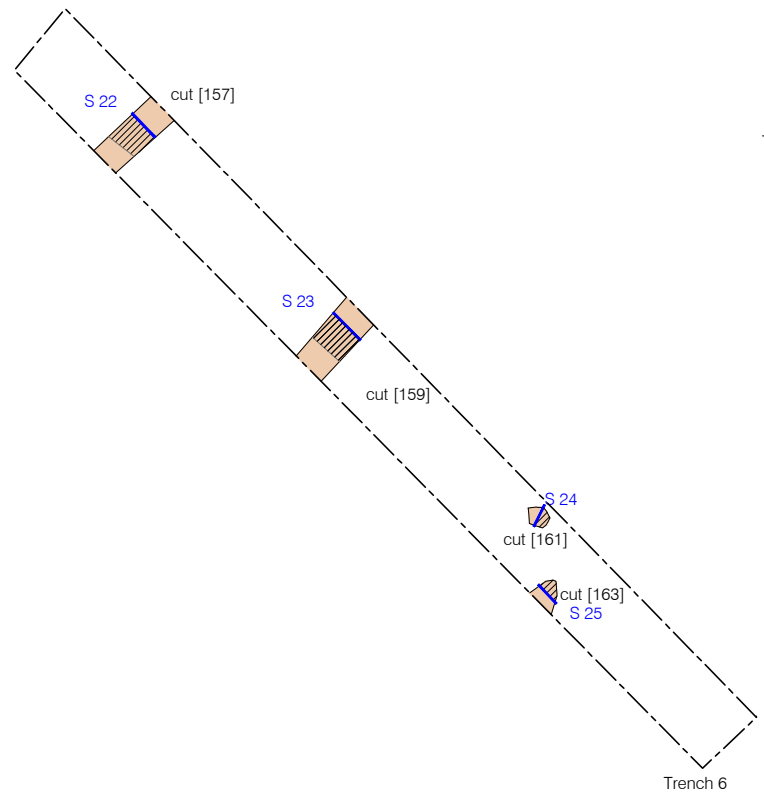


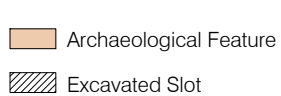
Figure 2
 Detailed Site Location
 1:800 at A4



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Figure 3
Plan of Trenches 1-3
1:200 at A4





 Archaeological Feature

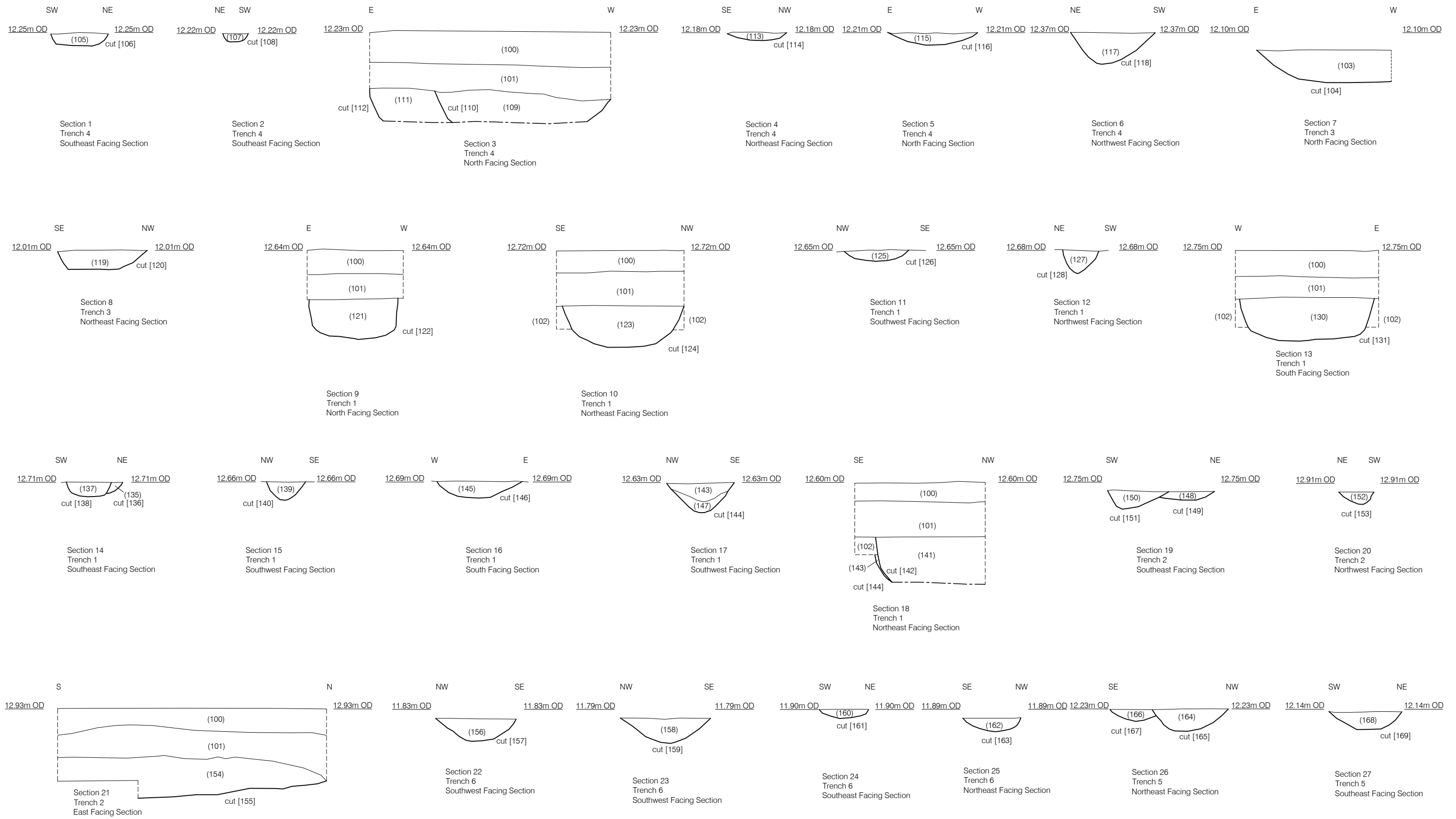
 Excavated Slot

 0 40m

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Figure 4
Plan of Trenches 3-6
1:200 at A4



10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: The site, view south-east



Plate 2: Trench 1, view west-northwest



Plate 3: Trench 2, view south



Plate 4: Trench 4, view west



Plate 5: Trench 6, view south-east



Plate 6: Ditch [144] and Pit [142] (not fully excavated), view south-west



Plate 7: Ditches [136] and [138], with remnants of brick wall 132, view south-east



Plate 8: Ditches [149] and [151], view north-west



Plate 9: Pit [104], view south



Plate 10: Pits [110] and [112] (not fully excavated), view south



Plate 11: Ditches [165] and [167], view south-west



Plate 12: Posthole [161], view south-east

11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Cut	Trench	Type	Category
100	-	-	Layer	Topsoil
101	-	-	Layer	Subsoil
102	-	-	Layer	Natural
103	104	3	Fill	Pit
104	104	3	Cut	Pit
105	106	4	Fill	Ditch
106	106	4	Cut	Ditch
107	108	4	Fill	Ditch
108	108	4	Cut	Ditch
109	110	4	Fill	Pit
110	110	4	Cut	Pit
111	112	4	Fill	Pit
112	112	4	Cut	Pit
113	114	4	Fill	Ditch
114	114	4	Cut	Ditch
115	116	4	Fill	Ditch
116	116	4	Cut	Ditch
117	118	4	Fill	Ditch
118	118	4	Cut	Ditch
119	120	3	Fill	Ditch
120	120	3	Cut	Ditch
121	122	1	Fill	Pit
122	122	1	Cut	Pit
123	124	1	Fill	Pit
124	124	1	Cut	Pit
125	126	1	Fill	Ditch
126	126	1	Cut	Ditch
127	128	1	Fill	Ditch
128	128	1	Cut	Ditch
129			VOID	
130	131	1	Fill	Pit
131	131	1	Cut	Pit
132	134	1	Fill	Wall
133	134	1	Fill	Wall
134	134	1	Cut	Wall

Context Number	Cut	Trench	Type	Category
135	136	1	Fill	Ditch
136	136	1	Cut	Ditch
137	138	1	Fill	Ditch
138	138	1	Cut	Ditch
139	140	1	Fill	Ditch
140	140	1	Cut	Ditch
141	142	1	Fill	Pit
142	142	1	Cut	Pit
143	144	1	Fill	Ditch
144	144	1	Cut	Ditch
145	146	1	Fill	Pit
146	146	1	Cut	Pit
147	144	1	Fill	Ditch
148	149	2	Fill	Ditch
149	149	2	Cut	Ditch
150	151	2	Fill	Ditch
151	151	2	Cut	Ditch
152	153	2	Fill	Ditch
153	153	2	Cut	Ditch
154	155	2	Fill	Pit
155	155	2	Cut	Pit
156	157	6	Fill	Ditch
157	157	6	Cut	Ditch
158	159	6	Fill	Ditch
159	159	6	Cut	Ditch
160	161	6	Fill	Posthole
161	161	6	Cut	Posthole
162	163	6	Fill	Posthole
163	163	6	Cut	Posthole
164	165	5	Fill	Ditch
165	165	5	Cut	Ditch
166	167	5	Fill	Ditch
167	167	5	Cut	Ditch
168	169	5	Fill	Ditch
169	169	5	Cut	Ditch

12 APPENDIX 3: ENVIRONMENTAL FLOTATION ASSESSMENT

Sample number	Context number	Feature	Feature Type	Vol (ml)	Flot							
					Charcoal >1mm	Charcoal <1mm	Seeds (uncharred)	Seeds (charred)	Grain	Mollusca	Other	
1	103	104	Pit	110	2	1	2				Land (2)	Roots (4) Straw (1)
2	109	110	Pit	70					1	Frag (2) Land (4) Freshwater (2)	Roots (2)	
3	150	151	Ditch	130	4	4	2		4	Frag (3) Land (4) Freshwater (1)	Roots (4) Insect remains (2) Animal bone (1) Plastic (1)	

13 APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-256364

Project details

Project name	Land at Mills Lane, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Mills Lane, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4030 6607) between the 8th and the 10th June 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by Resolute Estates Ltd in support of a planning application for the construction of 10 residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The evaluation identified a number of ditches, many of which probably had their origins in the medieval period and continued in use through the post-medieval period. St. Michaels Lane to the south-east (and possibly Mills Lane to the north-west) is likely to have been present in the medieval period and the ditches aligned perpendicular and parallel to these roads are thought to represent medieval plot divisions. A concentration of pits dating from the 12th-15th century A.D in the western half of the site and two postholes in the eastern half indicate settlement activity nearby. The remains of a series of house platforms, terraced ditches and leats relating to the shrunken medieval village lie to the south-east of All Saint's Church, in the fields north of Mills Lane. The medieval activity seen in this evaluation may be related to this medieval settlement, which explains why no later post-medieval activity was present on the site.
Project dates	Start: 08-06-2016 End: 10-06-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4740 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"

Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE LONGSTANTON Land at Mills Lane, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire
Site coordinates	TL 4030 6607 52.27443845472 0.056591910731 52 16 27 N 000 03 23 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Andy Thomas
Project design originator	Mary-Anne Slater
Project director/manager	Taleyna Fletcher
Project supervisor	Mary-Anne Slater
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Physical Archive ID	ECB4740
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Digital Archive ID	ECB4740
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Paper Archive ID	ECB4740
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Mills Lane, Longstanton, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Slater, M.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge

Entered by	Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne shelbourne@pre-construct.com)	(lmorgan-
Entered on	12 July 2016	

PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

